



IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FEBRUARY 17, 1879.

Read twice, referred to the Select Committee on the Origin, Introduction, and Prevention of Epidemic Diseases in the United States, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. CASEY YOUNG, on leave, introduced the following bill:

A BILL

To prevent the introduction of infectious or contagious diseases into the United States, and to establish a Board of Health.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That there shall be established in the Treasury Department a
4 Board of Health, to consist of seven members, to be ap-
5 pointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent
6 of the Senate, not more than one of whom shall be appointed
7 from any one State, whose compensation, during the time
8 when actually engaged in the performance of their duties
9 under this act, shall be ten dollars per diem and reasonable
10 expenses. The Surgeon-General of the Army and the Sur-
11 geon-General of the Navy shall be ex officio additional mem-
12 bers of said board, but without additional pay. Said board
13 shall meet in Washington within thirty days after the passage

14 of this act, and in Washington or elsewhere from time to time
15 upon notice from the president of the board, who is to be
16 chosen by the members thereof, or upon its own adjournments,
17 and shall frame all rules and regulations authorized or required
18 by this act, and shall make or cause to be made by members
19 of their own body such special examinations and investiga-
20 tions at any place or places within the United States as they
21 may order, to aid in the execution of this act and the promotion
22 of its objects, subject to the approval of the Secretary of the
23 Treasury. All rules and regulations framed under this act by
24 said Board of Health shall be uniform: *Provided, however,*
25 That nothing herein contained shall be construed to super-
26 sede or to interfere with any State or municipal quarantines,
27 or precautionary measures of the States or municipalities now
28 in operation, or which may hereafter be inaugurated, to pre-
29 vent the introduction or spread of infectious or epidemic dis-
30 eases.

1 SEC. 2. The Board of Health shall be charged with the
2 execution of all laws and orders, rules and regulations, made
3 in pursuance of law for the improvement of the sanitary con-
4 dition of the District of Columbia. It shall also be charged
5 with the duty of obtaining information of the sanitary condi-
6 tion of foreign ports and places from which contagious or in-
7 fectionous diseases are or may be imported into the United
8 States; and to this end the consular officers of the United

9 States at all ports and places, who may be required to do so,
10 shall make to the Board of Health weekly reports of the sanitary
11 condition of the ports and places at which they are respectively
12 stationed, according to such form as may be prescribed. The
13 Board of Health shall also obtain through the medical officers
14 of the Marine Hospital service, collectors of customs, and such
15 other sources as are accessible, including State and municipal
16 health officers and authorities throughout the United States,
17 weekly reports of the sanitary condition of the ports and places
18 within the United States ; and the Board of Health shall pre-
19 pare and transmit to the medical officers of the Marine Hos-
20 pital service, to collectors of customs, and to State and muni-
21 cipal health officers and authorities, weekly abstracts of the
22 consular sanitary reports and other pertinent information
23 received by them ; and said Board of Health shall also, as
24 far as it may be able, by means of voluntary co-operation of
25 State and municipal authorities, of public associations and
26 private persons, procure information relating to the climatic
27 and other conditions affecting the public health ; and the
28 Board of Health shall make an annual report to the Secre-
29 tary of the Treasury of its operations for transmission to Con-
30 gress, with such recommendations as they may deem impor-
31 tant to the public interests.

1 SEC. 3. That it shall be unlawful for any vessel engaged
2 in the transportation of goods or persons from any foreign

3 port where any contagious or infectious disease exists, to and
4 into the United States, to enter any port of the United States,
5 except in accordance with the provisions of this act, and all
6 rules and regulations made in pursuance and applicable there-
7 to; and any such vessel which shall enter, or attempt to enter,
8 a port of the United States in violation thereof shall forfeit
9 to the United States a sum to be awarded in the discretion of
10 the court, not exceeding five thousand dollars, which shall
11 be a lien upon said vessel, to be recovered by proceedings in
12 admiralty in the proper district court of the United States.

1 SEC. 4. All such vessels shall be required to obtain from
2 the consul, vice-consul, or other consular officer of the United
3 States at the port of departure, a certificate in duplicate, set-
4 ting forth that said vessel has in all respects complied with
5 the rules and regulations in such cases prescribed, and herein
6 authorized, for the disinfection of said vessel, its cargo, pas-
7 sengers, and crew; and said consular officer is required, before
8 granting such certificate, to be satisfied that the matters and
9 things therein stated are true, and for his services in that be-
10 half shall be entitled to demand and receive such fees as shall
11 by lawful regulations be allowed, to be accounted for as is
12 required in other cases.

13 And all vessels sailing from the port of Havana, in the
14 island of Cuba, and bound for any port in the United States,
15 shall be required to obtain from the medical officer serving in

16 the office of consul of the United States at the port, to be
17 appointed by the President, by and with the advice and con-
18 sent of the Senate, for that purpose, and who shall receive a
19 salary of three thousand five hundred dollars per annum, his
20 certificate, setting forth that he has personally inspected said
21 vessel, her cargo, crew, and passengers ; that the rules and
22 regulation prescribed by the board of health in respect thereto
23 have been fully complied with ; and that in his opinion the
24 said vessel may be allowed to enter any port in the United
25 States, and land its cargo and passengers, without danger to
26 the health thereof on account of any contagious or infectious
27 disease ; and any vessel sailing from said port without such
28 certificate of said medical officer, entering any port of the
29 United States, shall forfeit to the United States the sum of
30 five hundred dollars, which shall be a lien on the same, to be
31 recovered by proceedings in admiralty in the proper district
32 court of the United States. And any vessel sailing from any
33 other infected port, and bound for any port in the United
34 States, shall be required to obtain a like certificate from the
35 consular officer of the United States at said port. And the
36 Secretary of State is hereby directed to give information to
37 the consular officers of the United States of the duties
38 imposed upon them by this act.

1 SEC. 5. The Board of Health shall from time to time
2 issue to the consular officers of the United States, and to the

3 medical officer serving at the port of Havana, and otherwise
4 make publicly known, in such manner as shall be therein pre-
5 scribed, the rules and regulations framed by the said Board of
6 Health, and approved by the President, to be used and com-
7 plied with by vessels in foreign ports, for disinfecting such
8 vessels, their cargo, passengers, and crew, before their depart-
9 ure for any port in the United States, and in the course of the
10 voyage; and also such other rules and regulations which shall
11 be observed in the inspection of the same on the arrival
12 thereof at any quarantine station at the port of destination,
13 and for the disinfection and isolation of the same, and the
14 treatment of cargo and persons on board, so as to prevent the
15 spread of cholera and yellow fever or other contagious and
16 infectious diseases; and it shall not be lawful for any vessel
17 to enter said port, to discharge its cargo, or land its passen-
18 gers, except upon a permit of the health-officer at such quar-
19 antine station, certifying that said rules and regulations have
20 in all respects been observed and complied with, as well on
21 his part as on the part of the said vessel and its master, in
22 respect to the same, and to its cargo, passengers, and crew;
23 and the master of every such vessel shall produce and deliver
24 to the collector of customs of said port of entry, together
25 with the other papers of the vessel, the said certificates required
26 to be obtained at the port of departure, and the permit and cer-
27 tificate herein required to be obtained from the health-officer at

28 the port of entry. It shall be the duty of the medical officer
29 of the Marine Hospital service and of customs-officers to aid
30 in the enforcement of the rules and regulations authorized by
31 this act, without additional compensation, except for actual
32 and necessary travelling expenses incurred in the performance
33 of such duties.

1 SEC. 6. That rules and regulations framed and approved
2 as hereinbefore authorized shall be promulgated so that when
3 cholera, yellow fever, or other similar contagious or infectious
4 disease shall be ascertained by the board of health to exist in
5 any port or place within any one of the United States, in
6 such form as threatens its spread, as to prevent, as far as
7 practicable, the communication of the same to other ports
8 and places within other States, by means of vessels and
9 vehicles engaged in the transportation of goods or passengers
10 between two or more States, whether by land or water; and
11 when the executive of any State in which any infectious dis-
12 ease may exist, or whether they are likely to spread, shall
13 inform the Board of Health that the State or municipal author-
14 ities are unable to control said disease, or prevent the spread
15 of the same, then, in that case, the Board of Health shall
16 select suitable localities for establishing quarantine stations on
17 the rivers and other lines of inter-State commerce, and may
18 enforce such rules and regulations relating thereto as may
19 have been prescribed therefor.

1 SEC. 7. That it shall be the duty of the Board of Health
2 so far as they lawfully may in the execution of the powers
3 conferred upon them by law, to correspond and co-operate
4 with similar local officers, boards, and authorities acting under
5 laws of the States in sanitary measures, to prevent the intro-
6 duction and spread of contagious and infectious diseases from
7 foreign countries into the United States, and from one State
8 into any other State, by means of commercial intercourse, or
9 upon and along the lines of inter-State trade and travel ; and
10 to that end it shall be lawful for said Board of Health to con-
11 fer upon any such local officer or board within or near the
12 locality where his or its authority is exercised, power also
13 to enforce the provisions of this act, and any rules and regu-
14 lations made in pursuance thereof.

1 SEC. 8. That the Board of Health, with the assistance
2 of the Academy of Science, which is hereby requested and
3 directed to co-operate with them for that purpose, shall
4 report to Congress at its next session a plan for a national
5 public health organization, which plan shall be prepared after
6 consultation with the principal sanitary organizations and the
7 sanitarians of the several States of the United States, special
8 attention being given to the subject of quarantine, both
9 maritime and inland, and especially as to regulations which
10 should be established between State or local systems of quar-
11 antine and a national quarantine system.

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